

January 17, 1983

so forth but I feel now a need to address some of the points my good colleague, Senator Beutler, raised because Senator Beutler and I have always been good friends but he has a special ability to get to me in a way that raises my blood pressure just a little bit, and because of that ability, I feel the need to address some of his comments first, foremost, and as coolly as I possibly can. I lose composure after the speech has gone on for awhile so I will work at being sweet and wonderful here and try to explain my problems with Senator Beutler's arguments. Senator Beutler says that we have a process and the process was established by the Executive Board and it was. I was on the Executive Board. I made the motion to adopt this process. It did move up the limitations on having bills drafted and put some severe pressure on legislators and the bill drafting office. And I supported that and my argument at the time to Senator Schmit who opposed the proposal was that frankly we can change it if there is a problem on the floor, and I promised Senator Schmit that I would be with him in changing that if there was a problem. I sense there is a problem. I want to articulate today that there is in fact a problem and that we need to deal with this thing not only for this session but for two years from now because the ten day limitation just will not work any more. What has happened is that we see many, many bills being drafted, and because of that, we have a staff that is working night and day and they make mistakes. When you work 90 hours a week you make mistakes and that is the problem. They are making mistakes, honest, reasonable, understandable sorts of things. They are running six parts way before we have got things checked. There is many more redos than we have ever had before because one thing is legislators are a little more fastidious. They do ask for redos and that takes additional time. We also had some problems with the new computer. It took some time to get the new computer on this year, plus I want to give you some statistics that I think is very critical and very important for you to understand. In '75, and this goes every two years, in '75 there were five bill drafters. They averaged 130 bills a year. In '77 there were five bill drafters and they averaged 145 bills. In '79 the average fell because there was a limitation on bills. At that they had five bill drafters and they averaged 140 bills apiece. In '81 there were six and it was 134, but this year there are six bill drafters and we have come up to 153 on the average, plus all the redos, plus all the other pressures that this staff has. So they have done a marvelous job but they are only human. You can only work so many hours before you make mistakes, you have difficulties, and the limitations that we have, the ten day limitation, does provide tremendous hardship on individual legislators. Now Senator Beutler's